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BOROUGH OF COPLAY

INCORPORATED 1869

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOROUGH OF COPLAY,

LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as "COVID-19") emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread to eighty-nine (89) countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have declared COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern," and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, by authority of the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.) and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5), declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth"), pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 730(c) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, et seq., proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth on March 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth"), issued a "Stay-At-Home" order for Lehigh County beginning at 8 pm on March 25th 2020 and proclaimed it will be in effect through at least April 6th 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth, in collaboration with the CDC, HHS and local health agencies to monitor and plan for the containment and subsequent mitigation of COVID-19, activated its Department Operations Center and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's headquarters to conduct public health and medical coordination for COVID-19 throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ordered the activation of its Commonwealth Response

Coordination Center in support of the Department of Health's Department Operations Center, to maintain situational awareness and coordinate the response to any potential COVID-19 impacts across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, as of March 26, 2020 there are one thousand one hundred twenty-seven (1127) confirmed and/or presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, while it is anticipated that a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 will experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID-19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to older populations and those individuals with pre-existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, with one thousand one hundred twenty-seven (1127) presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth as of March 26, 2020, the possible increased threat from COVID-19 constitutes a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout the Borough; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has already caused schools, including but not limited to the Whitehall-Coplay School District, to close and will likely prompt additional local measures, including the declaration by other local municipal governments to declare local disaster emergencies because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to prepare for and to be ready to respond to cases of COVID-19 in the in the Borough of Coplay, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania ("Borough") by implementing measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to permit the Borough to be eligible for any and all federal, state and county disaster emergency funds that may become available; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 10A06(b) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 8 Pa.C.S.A. §§101, et seq., as amended, and Subsection 7501(b) of the Pennsylvania Emergency and the Pennsylvania Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, et seq., as amended, I do hereby declare a local disaster emergency for a period of seven (7) days from the date of this Declaration, which period of time may be extended by resolution of Borough Council.

FURTHER, I hereby suspend all or any provisions of any Borough ordinance or resolution if strict compliance with the provisions thereof would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency.

STILL FURTHER, I authorize officials of Coplay Borough to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary

workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public works as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Borough, in the Borough of Coplay, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, this 26th day of March, 2020.



Mayor Dean Molitoris

Attest: 
Kimberly Bachman, Secretary

Date: 03/26/2020